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COMICS



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THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



THE SEARING
SECRET OF
SHADRAC
REVEALED!

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STAN LEE PRESENTS: OFF TO A FLYING START!

HOWARD MACKIE
JOHN BYRNE
SCOTT HANNA
STORY & ART
GREGORY WRIGHT
COLORS
RICHARD STARKINGS
& COMICRAFT'S
LIZ AGRAPHOTOS
LETTERS
RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR
BOB HARRAS
CHIEF

JUST ANOTHER DAY IN NEW YORK CITY...

THE PARAMEDICS ARE ON THEIR WAY TO TAKE CARE OF MADDIE, THE GIRL WHO WOULD BE SPIDER-MAN...

...I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GET HER TO TELL ME THE WHOLE STORY ABOUT HER POWERS, WHY SHE PICKED UP THE SPIDER-MAN GUISSE AND ALL.

SOMETIMES IT'S NICE TO HAVE FANS.

BUT RIGHT NOW I'VE GOT OTHER THINGS ON MY MIND.

LIKE FINDING THAT FLAMING SHADRAC GUY.

LOOK!

UP IN THE SKY!

IT'S A B --

OKAY, PEOPLE! NONE OF THAT!

NOW BREAK IT UP BEFORE I RUN YOU ALL IN FOR CREATING A DISTURBANCE!



* And mere minutes after the conclusion of last month's cliff-hanger issue -- Left-hanging -- Rail

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: Vol. 2, No. 3, March, 1999 (ISSN #0274-5232) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Eric Eisenberg, President; Stan Lee, Publisher. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 367 PARK AVENUE, SOUTH NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1999 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.99 per copy in the U.S. and \$2.99 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues, U.S. \$23.98, foreign \$35.98, and Canadian subscribers must add \$10.00 for postage and GST. GST #R12302862. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, c/o MARVEL, DIRECT MARKETING COMPANY, P.O. BOX 1070, DANBURY, CT 06810-1070. TELEPHONE # (203) 743-6331. FAX # (203) 744-9944. Printed in the U.S.A.

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I'VE GOT THE POWER!

NOW IT'S UP TO ME TO ACT RESPONSIBLY... AND HAVE SOME FUN IN THE PROCESS!

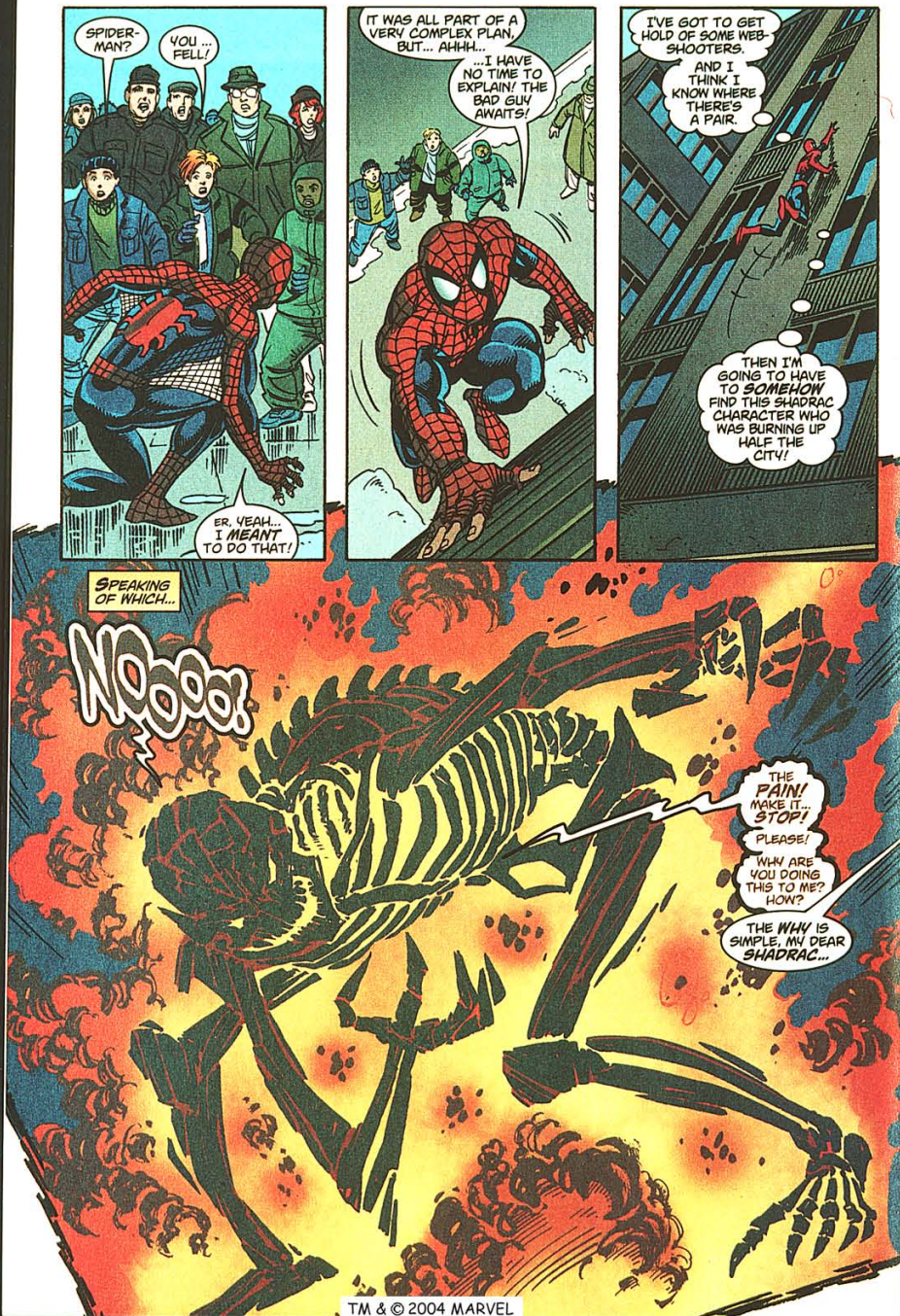
SWINGING ACROSS THE SKYLINE ON A WEBLINE --

-- WEBLINE?

I FORGOT -- I'M STILL WEARING THE COSTUME SHE DESIGNED FOR HERSELF -- NO WEB-SHOOTERS!



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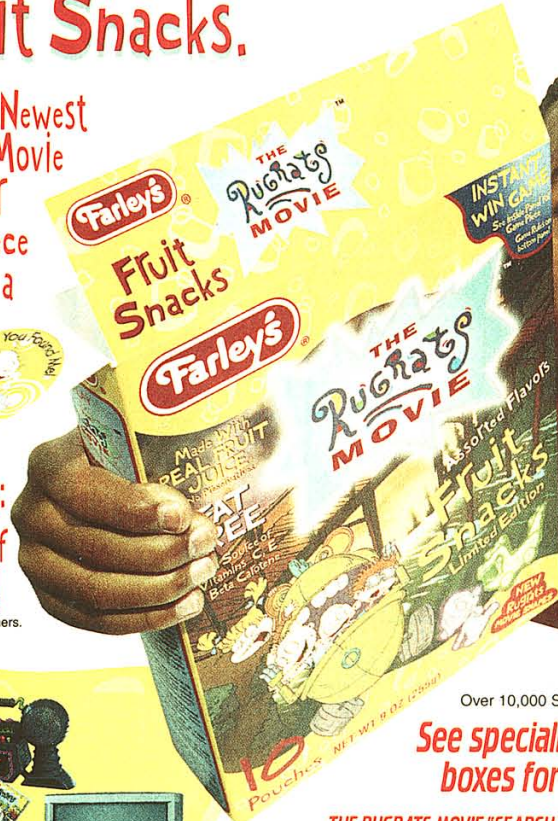


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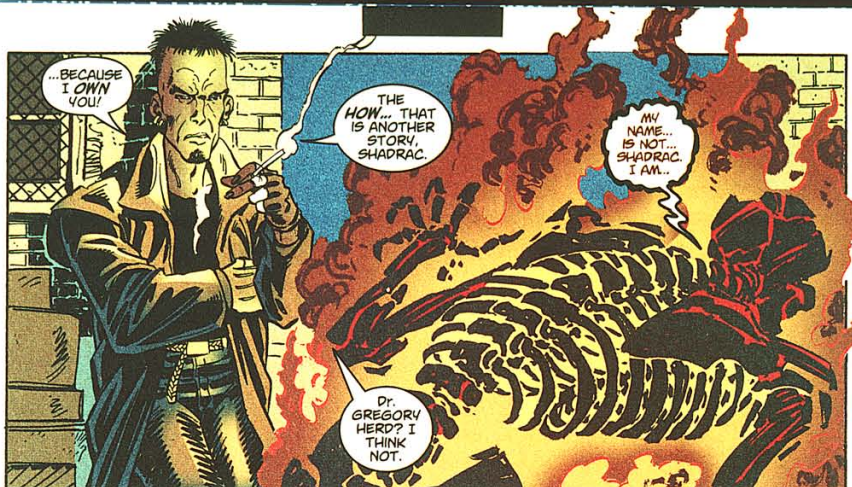
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"YOU GAVE UP ANY RIGHT TO YOUR CIVILIAN IDENTITY THE DAY THAT, AS THE SUPER-POWERED OVERRIDE, YOU THREW YOUR LOT IN WITH THE LIKES OF THAT MURDEROUS THIEF, NORMAN OSBORN."



"YOUR MISGUIDED ATTEMPT TO JOIN THE GATHERING OF FIVE CEREMONY IN ORDER TO GAIN SOME MAGICAL GIFT TO HELP YOUR CRITICALLY INJURED SPOUSE WAS FOOLISH AT BEST."

"I DO GIVE YOU CREDIT FOR PIECING TOGETHER THE PUZZLE OF THE GATHERING OF FIVE."

"WHY BRING THE PIECES OF POWER TOGETHER? WHY RISK THE CHANCES OF DEATH, INSANITY OR ANY OF THE OTHER TRICKS SUCH DABBING IN THE METAPHYSICAL HAS TO OFFER?"



"NOT WHEN THE SPINDLE, THE CENTERPIECE, MY PIECE, STOLEN BY AGENTS OF OSBORN, COULD GRANT A SAMPLING OF ALL GIFTS."

"YOU TOOK YOUR CHANCE AND YOU PAID YOUR PRICE."



"YOU RECEIVED DEATH."

"YOUR WIFE IS NONE THE BETTER FOR YOUR RISK, AND YOU..."



"... YOU ARE SHADRAC, MY OWN PERSONAL ANGEL OF DEATH."



"YOU APPEAR TO HAVE FIGURED OUT WHO RECEIVED EACH OF THE GIFTS AND THEN..."

"... SOUGHT OUT THE OLD MAN, THE PAWNBROKER, MORRIS MAXWELL, WHO APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN DRIVEN INSANE. HE WAS, IN FACT, THE RECIPIENT OF THE GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE."

"WHAT WAS YOUR HOPE, SHADRAC? THAT THE OLD MAN WOULD BE ABLE TO HELP YOU, OR YOUR DYING WIFE?"



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WIZARD®

THE COMICS MAGAZINE

You can use this ballot (or a photocopy) to vote, as long as you follow these rules and regulations:

- 1) Only material that shipped in the calendar year 1998 is eligible.
- 2) You may vote for ONLY ONE entry in each category. Multiple votes are all disqualified.
- 3) You need not vote for a listed nominee. Write-in candidates are perfectly acceptable.
- 4) You may send in only one ballot. All multiple ballots are disqualified.

FAVORITE WRITER

- ☐ Kurt Busiek
- ☐ Garth Ennis
- ☐ Grant Morrison
- ☐ Kevin Smith
- ☐ Mark Waid
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE PENCILER

- ☐ J. Scott Campbell
- ☐ Jim Lee
- ☐ Joe Madureira
- ☐ George Pérez
- ☐ Michael Turner
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE INKER

- ☐ Alex Garner
- ☐ Tom McWeeny
- ☐ Jimmy Palmiotti
- ☐ Tim Townsend
- ☐ Al Vey
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE PAINTER

- ☐ Glenn Fabry
- ☐ Joe Jusko
- ☐ Glen Orbik
- ☐ Alex Ross
- ☐ Mark Texeira
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE COLORIST

- ☐ Digital Chameleon
- ☐ Bjorne Hansen
- ☐ Dan Kemp
- ☐ Liquid Graphics
- ☐ Jonathan D. Smith
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE LETTERER

- ☐ Todd Klein
- ☐ Ken Lopez
- ☐ Tom Orzechowski
- ☐ Richard Starkings and Comcraft
- ☐ John Workman
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE EDITOR

- ☐ Tom Brevoort
- ☐ Kevin Dooley
- ☐ Bob Harras
- ☐ Ralph Macchio
- ☐ Dan Raspler
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE HERO

- ☐ Batman
- ☐ Daredevil
- ☐ Spawn
- ☐ Thor
- ☐ Wolverine
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE HEROINE

- ☐ Abbey Chase
- ☐ Fathom
- ☐ Gully
- ☐ Spider-Girl
- ☐ Witchblade
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE VILLAIN

- ☐ Green Goblin
- ☐ Parallax
- ☐ Prometheus
- ☐ Sabretooth
- ☐ Solaris
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE SUPPORTING CHARACTER

- ☐ Blind Alfred
- ☐ Commissioner Gordon
- ☐ Happy Hogan
- ☐ Ian Nottingham
- ☐ Sharon Carter
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE ONGOING SERIES

- ☐ Battle Chasers
- ☐ Daredevil
- ☐ JLA
- ☐ Spawn
- ☐ Uncanny X-Men
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE ONE-SHOT OR MINI-SERIES

- ☐ Clerks: The Comic Book
- ☐ DC One Million
- ☐ JLA: The Nail
- ☐ JLA: Year One
- ☐ Superman For All Seasons
- ☐ write-in

6TH ANNUAL FAN AWARDS BALLOT

The 6th annual Wizard Fan Awards are upon us and it's time for you, the comic fans of planet Earth, to determine what's best in the comic world! Comic fan voting will determine the winners of these prestigious awards. Nominees are provided as determined through a "Wizard World: Online" poll. If you don't like any of the nominees, feel free to vote for anybody or anything you want...including the li'l diddy you're holding in your hands!

FAVORITE PUBLISHER

- ☐ DC
- ☐ Marvel
- ☐ Todd McFarlane Productions
- ☐ Top Cow Productions
- ☐ WildStorm Productions
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE COMIC MERCHANDISE

- ☐ Daredevil statue, Bowen Designs
- ☐ Green Lantern (Hal Jordan) Power Ring, DC Retail Products
- ☐ Jay and Silent Bob action figures, Graphitti Designs
- ☐ Marvel Collector Editions: All-New, All-Different X-Men gift pack, Toy Biz
- ☐ Turak 2: Seeds of Evil video game, Acclaim
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE COMIC TV OR MOVIE PROJECT

- ☐ "Batman & Mr. Freeze: Sub-Zero" movie
- ☐ "Blade" movie
- ☐ "The Batman/Superman Adventures"
- ☐ "Space Ghost Coast to Coast"
- ☐ "Spawn" HBO cartoon
- ☐ write-in

COMICS' GREATEST MOMENT—1998

- ☐ Batman sees Gotham City destroyed by earthquake, *Detective Comics* #720
- ☐ Herr Starr nuked Monument Valley, *Preacher* #37
- ☐ The return of Hal Jordan, *Green Lantern* #99
- ☐ The Star Conqueror seen as big as a continent, *JLA* #22
- ☐ X-Men reunited in new lineup, *Uncanny X-Men* #360 and *X-Men* #80
- ☐ write-in

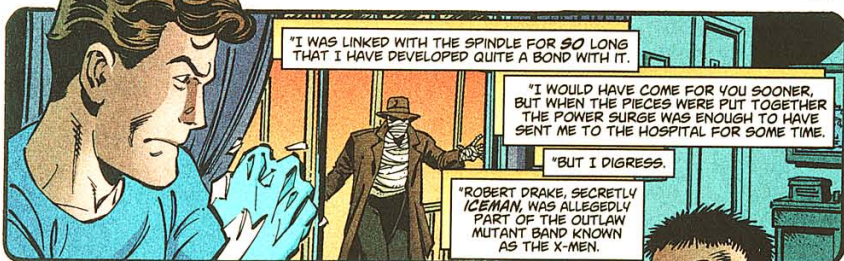
GET YOUR BALLOT IN BY

March 1, 1999.

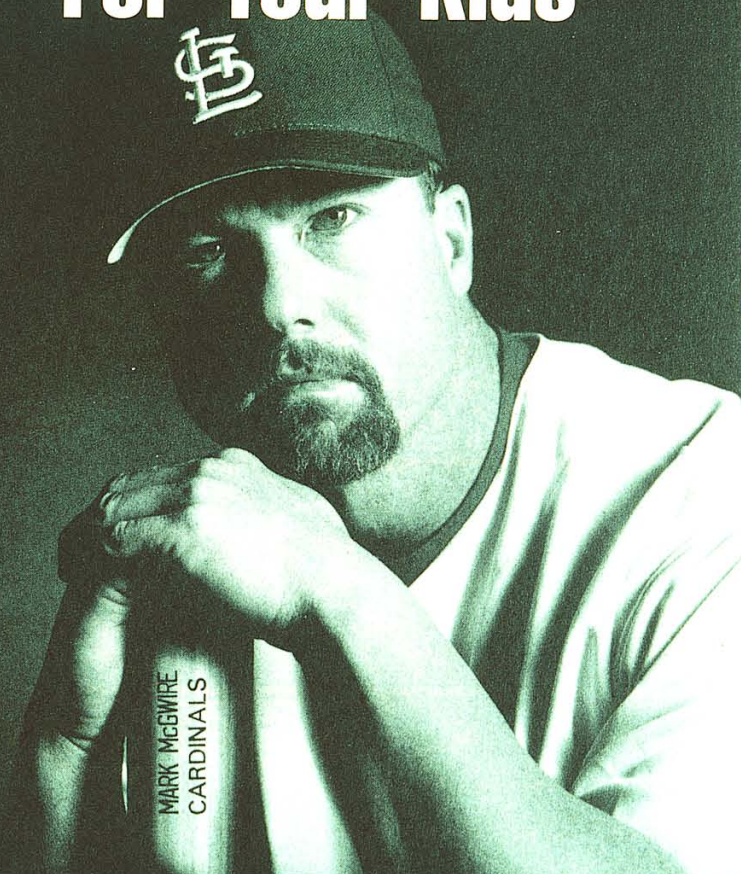
Send your ballot to:
Wizard Fan Awards
c/o Wizard Entertainment
P.O. Box 118
Congers, NY 10920-0118

Move it, cowpoke! That deadline's March 1, 1999, and all ballots postmarked after that date are null and void!

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NKF National Kidney Foundation

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BECAUSE I COULD NO MORE QUESTIONS.

I STILL AM NOT PLEASED WITH YOUR FAILURE TO OBTAIN THE SPINDLE FROM OSBORN'S HEADQUARTERS.

SPIDER-MAN SHOULD HAVE PROVED NO OBSTACLE FOR ONE OF YOUR POWER.

IF I FIND THAT YOU ARE FIGHTING ME, IF YOU BETRAY ME... YOU AND YOUR BELOVED WIFE WILL WISH THAT DEATH HAD BEEN A FAR KINDER EXPERIENCE.



MEANWHILE IN THE LOCKER ROOM OF THE TRICORP RESEARCH FOUNDATION...

I'VE GOTTEN RUSTY. I HAVE NO IDEA HOW I'M GOING TO PICK UP SHADRAC'S TRAIL.

I'VE LOST TIME HAVING TO GO HOME AND GET CIVILIAN CLOTHING...

...SO THAT I COULD COME HERE AND COLLECT THE BOX OF OLD MEMENTOS I STASHED.

I'VE GOT THE FIRST PAIR OF WEB-SHOOTERS I EVER CREATED IN HERE.

WANT TO TALK ABOUT RUSTY... BUT THEY'LL HAVE TO DO FOR NOW.

PARKER!



Dr. TWAKI IS LOOKING FOR YOU.

THANKS, JAVIER, BUT IF YOU COULD TELL HIM I'M NOT ACTUALLY IN FOR THE DAY... I'VE GOT PERSONAL...



LOOK, PARKER, I DON'T CARE. TWAKI HEARD YOU'D SIGNED IN AND WANTED TO TALK TO YOU.

I DON'T APPRECIATE BEING USED AS AN ERRAND BOY, BUT I DO AS I'M TOLD.

YOU GOT A PROBLEM... TALK TO TWAKI.

FINE. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.



I'M NOT DONE TALKING TO YOU!

EASY! DON'T WANT TO OVERREACT AND ACCIDENTALLY HURT THE JERK BY USING MY SPIDER-POWERS.



I DON'T LIKE YOU, PARKER. I THINK YOUR ALLEGED GENIUS IS HIGHLY OVERRATED AND... AND... AND...

...JUST STAY OUT OF MY WAY!

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ARE YOU DONE?



NOT BY A LONG SHOT.

WHUMP
WHOA!

SORRY, YOU WERE IN MY WAY, TERRY.

APOLOGY ACCEPTED... I THINK!



HOW GOES THE LATEST RUN-IN WITH MISTER PERSONALITY, PETER?

DO YOU REALLY HAVE TO ASK?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM.



HIS BARK REALLY IS WORSE THAN HIS BITE. HE JUST CAN'T STAND COMPETITION IS ALL.

ESPECIALLY NOT FROM SOMEONE YOUNGER THAN HIM.

YOU BOY GENIUSES ARE THE REAL PETER PANS.

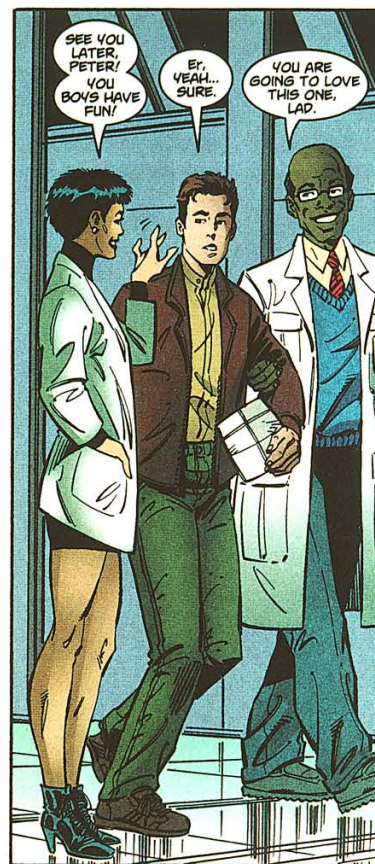
YOU KNOW DR. TWAKI IS LOOKING FOR YOU.

YEAH, I HEARD, TERRY, BUT I'VE GOT TO --



PARKER! JUST THE MAN I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!

OH BOY!



SEE YOU LATER, PETER! YOU BOYS HAVE FUN!

EY, YEAH... SURE.

YOU ARE GOING TO LOVE THIS ONE, LAD.



I ABSOLUTELY INSISTED THAT THE CELL DEVELOPING THE PROJECT NOT PROCEED WITHOUT YOU TO OBSERVE. THIS IS THE KIND OF PROJECT WHICH IS RIGHT UP YOUR ALLEY.

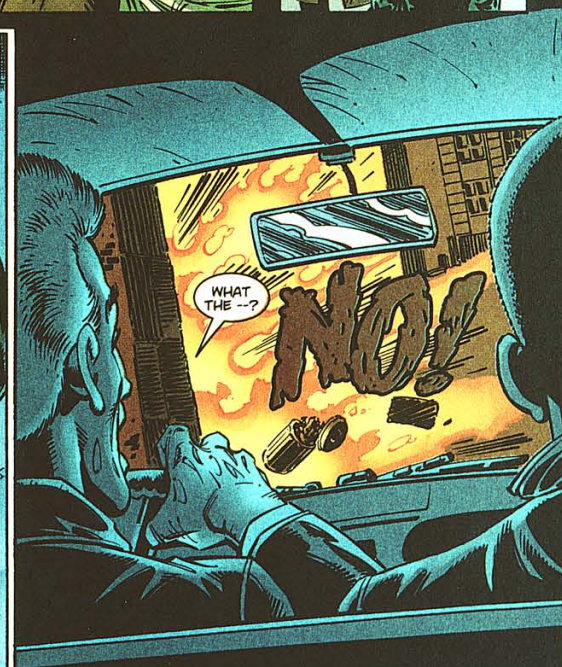
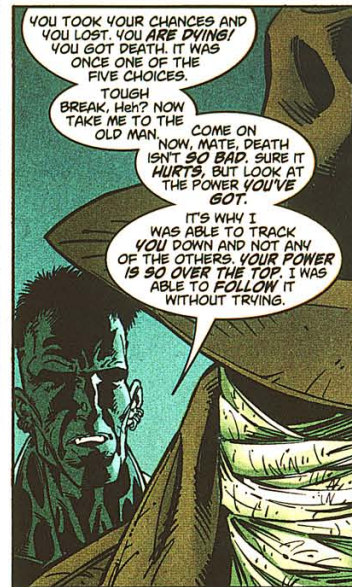
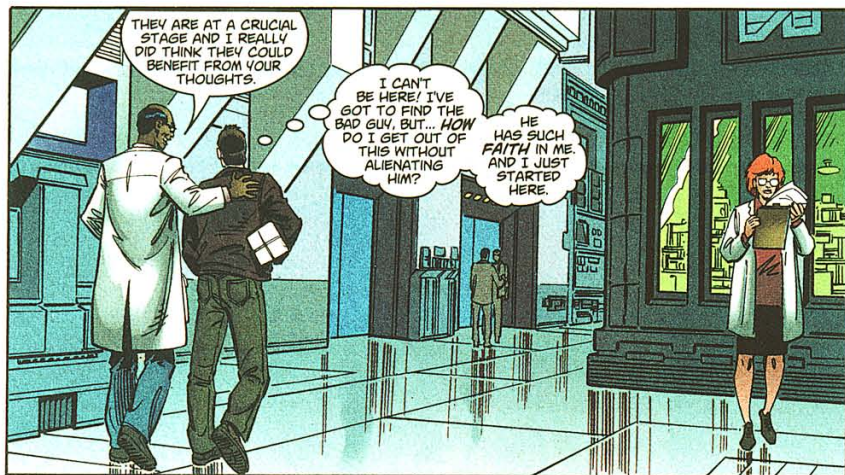
SIR? WHAT PROJECT?

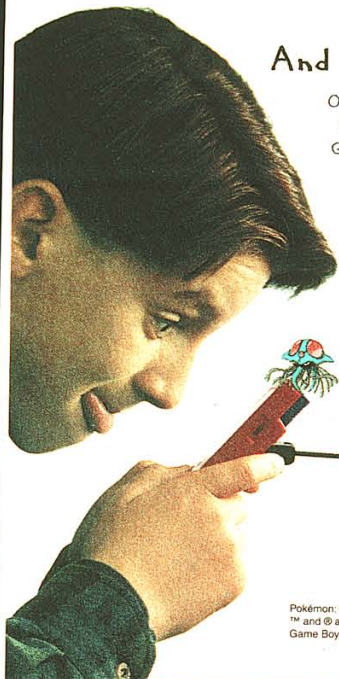
THE ROMA 14-X. YOU RECEIVED THE BRIEFING DOCUMENTS, DIDN'T YOU?



EY, YEAH, BUT... YOU SEE... I HAVEN'T REALLY HAD TIME TO --

NEVER MIND. WE'LL BRING YOU UP TO SPEED AS WE GO ALONG.





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A - NEXT

HERCULES disappeared shortly after the original AVENGERS disbanded, and now his son ARGOS calls upon the next generation of Earth's Mightiest Heroes to help him find his missing sire! By TOM DEFALCO and RON FRENZ!

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Behold the RED SKULL's terrible new abilities! Check out his terrifying new look! And prepare yourself for the shocking agenda of his surprising ally! By MARK WAID and ANDY KUBERT!

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The HULK and the XANTHEAN launch their final assault on the WATCHER's homeworld! Double-sized concluding issue that brings to a head all of the shattering subplots! By JOE CASEY and JAVIER PULIDO!

THUNDERBOLTS

The return of the mysterious CITIZEN V! But is he here to lead the THUNDERBOLTS -- or to take them down? That's the question HAWKEYE has to answer as the T-BOLTS square off once again against the MASTERS OF EVIL! By KURT BUSIEK and GEORGE PEREZ!

PETER PARKER: SPIDER-MAN

The ICEMAN cometh again -- but SHADRAC's ready to melt him faster than Frosty the Snowman! By HOWARD MACKIE and JOHN ROMITA JR.!

X - MAN

The most offbeat X-Man tale of the year! Off on his own, NATE may have just found the woman of his dreams -- and a turning point in his young life! By TERRY KAVANAGH and LUKE ROSS!

X - MEN

At long last, the origin of JOSEPH! Who is he? What is he? And who is the mysterious ASTRA? Find out in this issue! By ALAN DAVIS!

X-MEN: THE MANGA

NIMROD attacks the X-Mansion, only to be repelled by the X-MEN -- and their new allies, BISHOP and GAMBIT! By YUKIKAZE AMAGI!

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ITEM! Those MARVEL KNIGHTS guys sure know how to party! To celebrate the holiday season and their banner year as part of the Marvel family, EVENT COMICS founders JOE QUESADA and JIMMY PALMIOTTI threw a huge party, at NY's Johnny Fox's, which brought out a veritable who's who of comicdom. Some of the folks in attendance included CAPTAIN AMERICA artist ANDY KUBERT, SLINGERS scribe JOSEPH HARRIS, prolific writer MARK WAID, the upcoming BLACK WIDOW's scripter DEVIN GRAYSON, former X-FORCE penciler ADAM POLLINA, artists LEE WEEKS & RICK PARKER, plus honorary knights PAUL JENKINS and JG JONES, among others. Joining them were a plethora of Marvel staffers, Wizard Magazine hounds and a motley cast of characters that all enjoyed the spirited atmosphere. The event lasted 'til the wee hours of the morning and a great time was had by all!

ITEM! The origin of the mysterious protagonist JOSEPH will finally be revealed in X-MEN #86! Although we already know that he and MAGNETO are two separate individuals, since that was unveiled in UNCANNY X-MEN #350, little else is known about him. According to writer and penciler ALAN DAVIS, that'll soon change. "Obviously the 'MAGNETO WAR' story line will explain who JOSEPH is, and what his relationship to MAGNETO is, and also will show MAGNETO's next step in his agenda to free mutants from the human oppression," he said. Of course the plot thickens with the inclusion of the ACOYLES, the MOSSAD and S.H.I.E.L.D., and that's sure to leave everyone on the edge of their seats! Will JOSEPH's origin surprise people? You betcha! Check out X-MEN #86 and UNCANNY X-MEN #367 and be amazed for yourself!

ITEM! No sooner had we printed DAVE SILBER of SHAI HULUD's declaration of devotion to MARVEL a couple of weeks back, we were contacted by his fellow bandmate guitarist MATT FOX who wanted to give us his own top five list of favorite characters! And without further delay here they are: 1. GALACTUS; 2. SILVER SURFER; 3. SPIDEY; 4. THANOS and 5. CAPTAIN AMERICA. "Those are some of my favorites," MATT said; "there are tons of others that I haven't mentioned, like the rest of the universe!" He also recalled his recent tour stop in California when he and the rest of the group visited the MARVEL MANIA theme restaurant. "I had STORM, SPIDEY, CAP and WOLVERINE sign my menu. We were mesmerized; we had a great time and uh...I stole a porcelain plate with SPIDEY on it. It was just the coolest plate, I had to take it. Maybe you shouldn't mention that?" Sure, MATT, it'll be our little secret! And remember to check out SHAI HULUD's latest record, *Hearts Once Nourished With Hope and Compassion on REVELATION RECORDS!*

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Hi, Heroes!
Ready for some more inane intellectual interrogatories? Well, you've come to the right place, Bunky. Our heavily-guarded Vault of Letters is filled to overflowing with your querulous queries and raucous requests, so let's get started 'cause our nefarious No-Prizes are turning a hole in the pocket of my oh-so-hip Levis...

Perplexed Paul Thiel of Crescent Springs, KY craves a nugget of knowledge, like so...
"How far ahead are continuing story lines plotted? For example, did the writers of Spider-Man's clone saga know how it would end when it began?"

No way, Paul. If they knew how much criticism it would evoke, they'd never have started it. Actually, sometimes the gang has the whole story line all worked out from start to finish, and sometimes they just do it issue by issue with their fingers crossed. Kinda keeps us on our toes that way!

Here's a taunting little tidbit from Mitch Bostyancic of Coon Rapids, MN...

"Don't you wish you could travel back in time and stock up on those early comics you wrote? Just think, you could have retired by now!"

Yeah, I wouldn't have to keep pretending I know the answers to all of Marveldom's questions every issue! Thanks for your letter -- I think! Just what I needed -- another reminder of what a mutton-head I was!

Our next No-Prize is headed for Hasan Yildiz of Bronx, NY, or -- how lucky can ya be?

"In a recent Soapbox, you said you often visualized your characters as known actors. Who did you have in mind for Spidey, Mr. Fantastic and Charles Xavier? I bet you used Vincent Price for Dr. Strange because he looks so much like him."

Believe it or not, Hasan, Spidey was me as a teenager, Mr. Fantastic was me as an adult, and Xavier was Yul Brynner (fooled ya, huh?). As for Doc Strange -- I've gotta confess -- it was me in a cloak! I may have visualized known actors, but I usually ended up with my own personal favorite -- and I'll give you three guesses who that is!

Aaron Atwood of Berkeley, CA must be into Anomastics. (Don't ask me -- look it up!)
"Many Golden Age super heroes had goofy, overweight sidekicks with names like Tubby Watts, Woody Winks and Dooby Dickles. Did you conceive Foggy Nelson as a more 'realistic' version of those guys to play sidekick to Daredevil?"

Years ago, Aaron, a law-student pal of mine had the nickname "Foggy." So I figured he'd get a kick out of becoming a comic book icon. Oh, the things we do for friends!

Ad here's another great example of what to do for friends -- I give them the address of the good ol' Soapbox so they can stay in touch! Stan's Soapbox, Marvel Comics, 387 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016. And

let us ne'er forget our scintillatin' email site: stanstanz@aol.com. Okay, I did my part, True Believer! The rest is up to you!

Excelsior!
Stan
Stan Lee

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Chat schedule from Jan. 20 to Jan. 26:

Jan. 20/9pmET/CAPTAIN AMERICA and DEADPOOL editor -- MATT IDELSON!
Jan. 21/9:30pmET/EARTH'S MIGHTIEST CHAT with Writer KURT BUSIEK and Editor TOM BREVOORT!
Jan. 25/7pmET/SPIDER-MAN scribe -- legendary creator -- JOHN BYRNE!
Jan. 25/8pmET/SPIDER-MAN and THOR penciler -- JOHN ROMITA, JR.!
Jan. 26/8pmET/The official EARTH X chat with writer -- JIM KRUEGER!
AOL Keyword: Marvel!

Got Calu? Part 3 of GAMBIT's CyberComic "The Hunt for the Tomorrow Stone" hits home Jan. 20!
AOL Keyword: [Marvel Zone](http://www.marvelzone.com)
www.marvelzone.com

All Chat schedules subject to change/cancellation.



JACK!
WAIT UP WHILE
I CALL FOR
SOME BACK-
UP!

OH,
C'MON,
MIKE! IT'S
PROBABLY
JUST A --

JUST
A -- JUST
A --



FREEZE!
THE BOTH
OF YA!

YOU
HAVE NO
IDEA HOW MUCH
HE'D LIKE
TO OBLIGE
YOU,
CONSTABLE.

BUT,
UNFORTUNATELY,
AS YOU WILL
SOON LEARN...



CALL FOR
BACK-UP
NOW!

I'M NOT
GOING TO LET
YOU DO THIS,
POLMAN!

OH NO?
YOU ARE
GOING TO
FIGHT
ME?

YOU
REALLY THINK
THAT YOUR
PATHETIC LITTLE
MIND IS STRONG
ENOUGH TO
RESIST --



... HE
SIMPLY
CAN'T.



AT THAT
MOMENT...

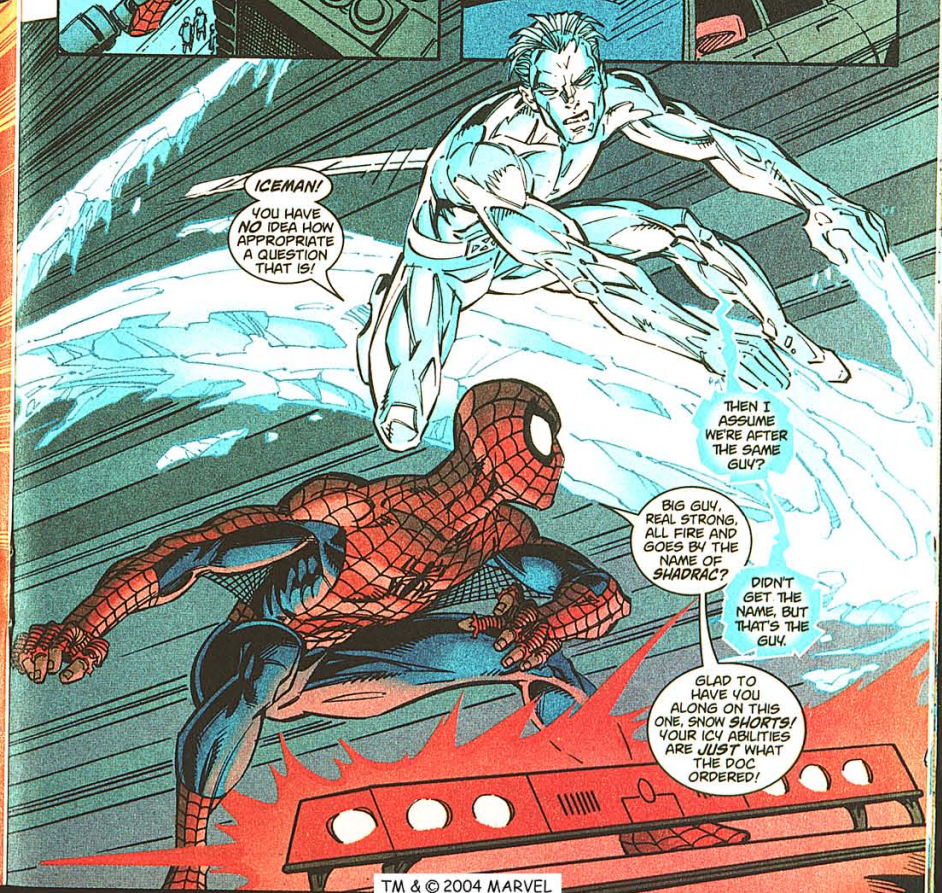
WHAT'S
THIS?
SEEMS
LIKE EVERY COP
CAR IN THE AREA
IS HEADING IN
THE SAME
DIRECTION



MIGHT
AS WELL HITCH
A RIDE AND SEE
IF IT GETS ME
WHERE I WANT
TO GO.

ESPECIALLY
SINCE THESE OLD
WEB-SHOOTERS OF
MINE HAVE A LIMITED
CAPACITY AND TO
JUST AS SOON
SAVE IT FOR A
FIGHT!

WHERE'S
THE FIRE,
WEB-HEAD?



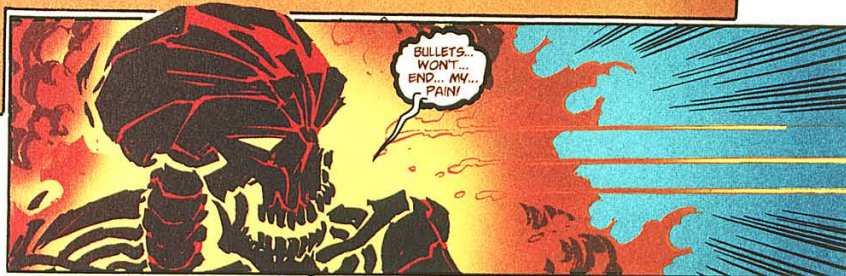
ICEMAN!
YOU HAVE
NO IDEA HOW
APPROPRIATE
A QUESTION
THAT IS!

THEN I
ASSUME
WE'RE AFTER
THE SAME
GUY?

BIG GUY,
REAL STRONG,
ALL FIRE AND
GOES BY THE
NAME OF
SHADRAC?

DIDNT
GET THE
NAME, BUT
THAT'S THE
GUY.

GLAD TO
HAVE YOU
ALONG ON THIS
ONE, SNOW SHORTS!
YOUR ICY ABILITIES
ARE JUST WHAT
THE DOC
ORDERED!



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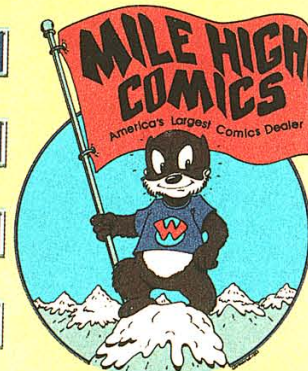
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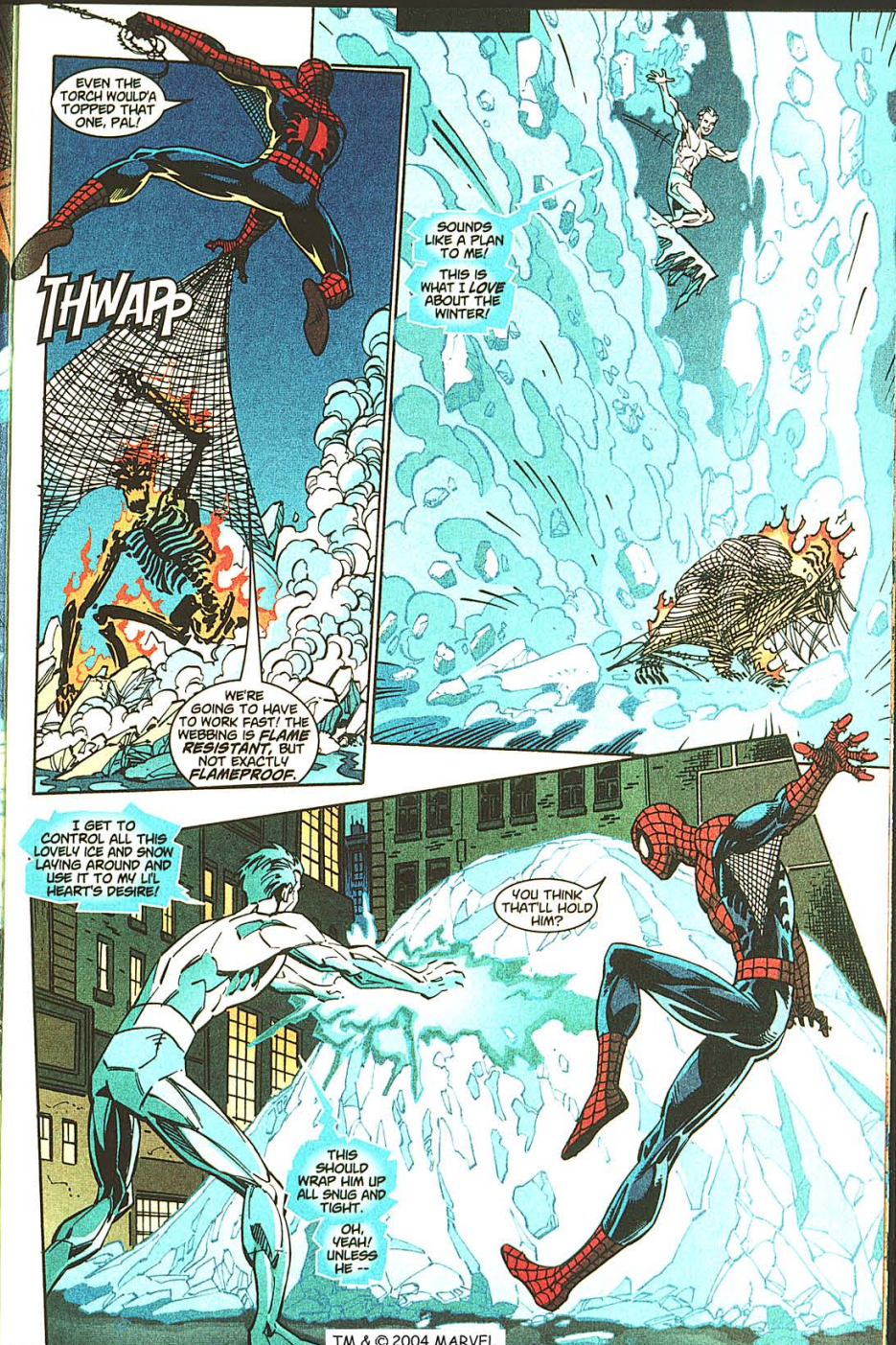
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KRAKOOOM

WHO IS THIS GUY?

I HAVE NO IDEA!

UNLESS HE TRIES REAL HARD AND TURNS THE ICE INTO A GIGANTIC WAVE OF SUPER-HEATED STEAM?

YEAH.

WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT?

BUT HE'S OUT OF CONTROL AND SOME INNOCENT PERSON IS GOING TO GET HURT IF WE DON'T STOP HIM.

A LITTLE ICE, MAN?

ON IT.

BUT I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS SUCH A GOOD IDEA.

WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME.

AS MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT...

...SOMEONE'S GOING TO HAVE TO GO TOE-TO-TOE WITH THIS NUT!

AND I'M ASSUMING THAT FROM THE WEB BOXING GLOVES YOU'RE MAKING -- YOU'RE VOLUNTEERING.

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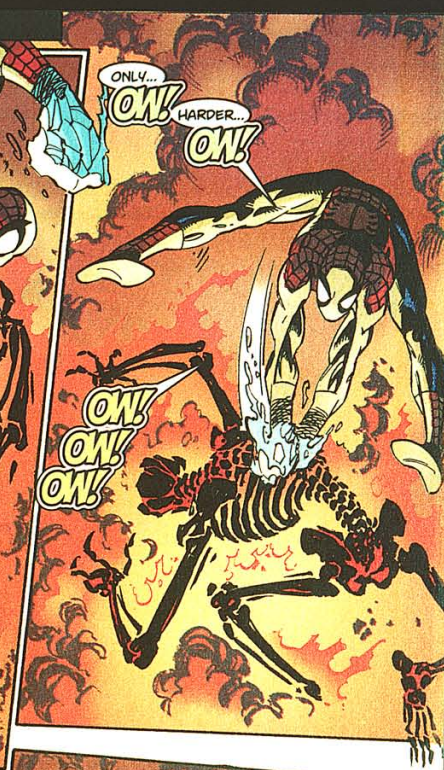
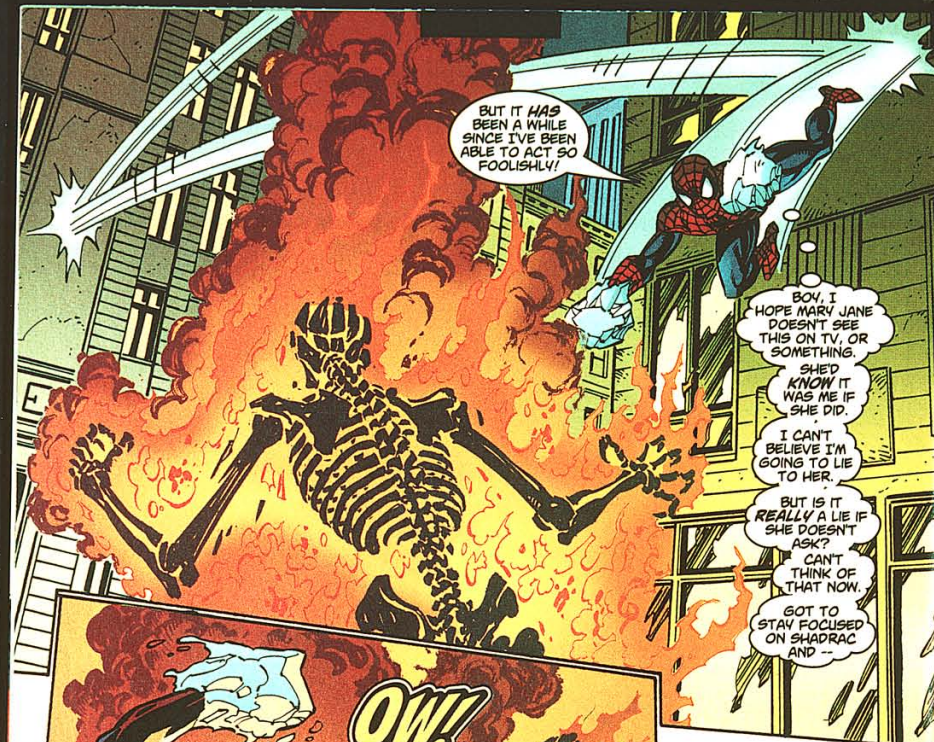
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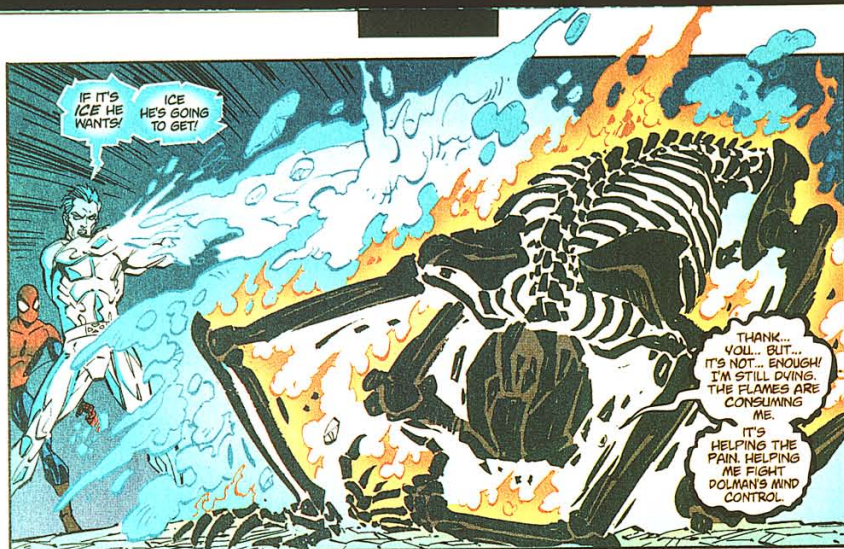
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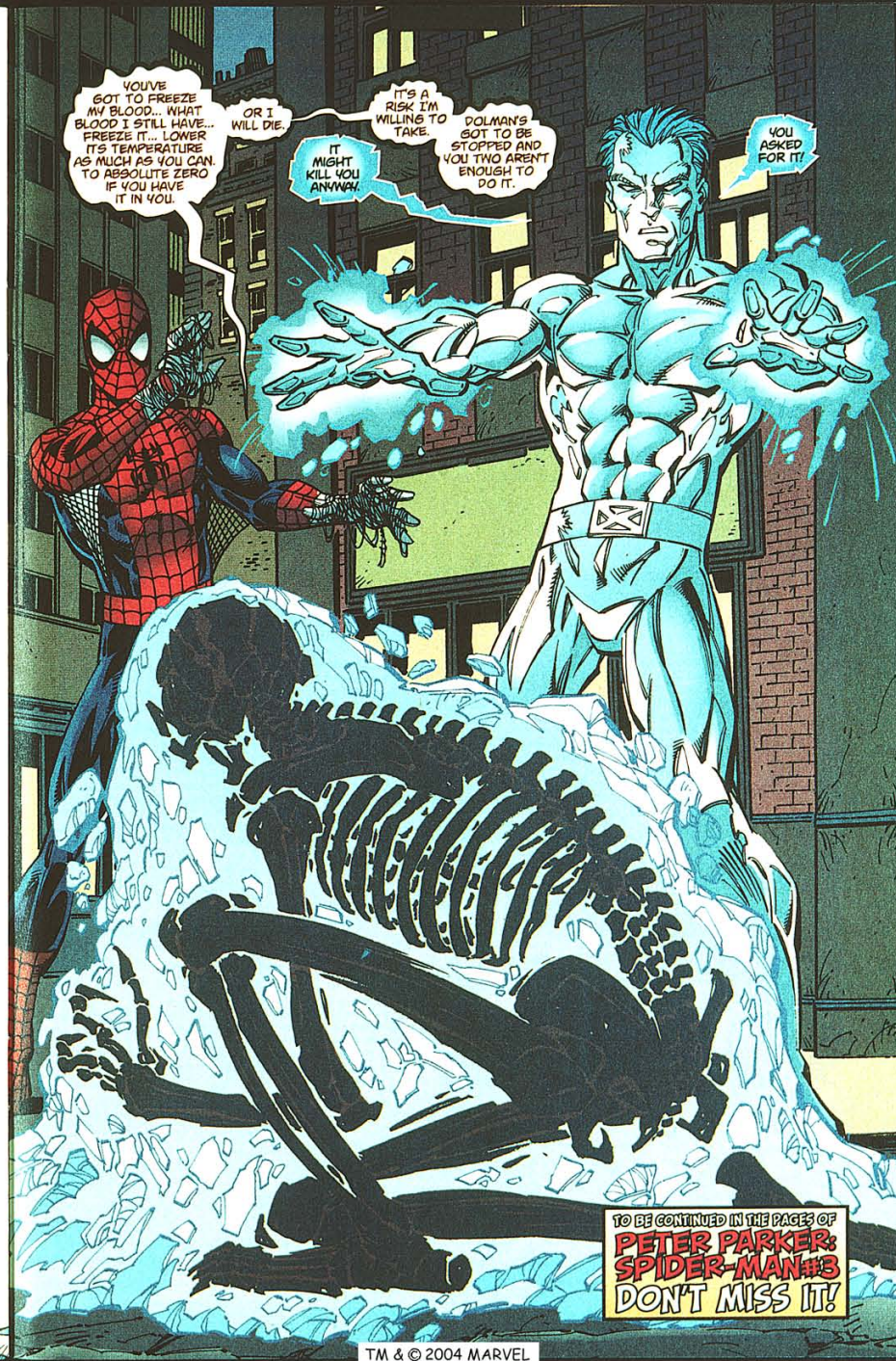
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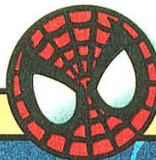
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THE SPIDER'S WEB

MATT
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Welcome back, friends, to the show that never ends! We're glad to be able to bring you your assorted comments on the historic AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1. Expectations about this controversial relaunch were mixed to say the least, but the response from fandom at large has been overwhelmingly positive! Thanks to all of you who chose to put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) for this event. We'll try to get to as many of your letters as possible in the coming months. Onward!

Dear Spider-Man,

I was a bit concerned after hearing that Spider-Man was going to go through a great metamorphosis—especially the cancellation of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN after 441 issues. Sure, John Byrne was doing a new take on the character, but for me that didn't mean a lot. Don't get me wrong: I have a lot of respect for Mr. Byrne, even though I don't agree with everything he's done. However, his reworking of Superman was excellent, so why not Spider-Man?

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1 was just that: Amazing! I was totally impressed and surprised. Sure, Peter quit being Spider-Man—not very original—but this time he really meant it. He even blew off the rampaging Scorpion for a job interview. Now that was a first. As a matter of character and originality, I hope he does it again. Leave the super villain attacks for some other hero, like Daredevil or Captain America, to deal with. Pete's got his own life to worry about. I like that approach—as long as it doesn't carry on too long. There is, after all, only one Spider-Man (or is there?). I look forward to seeing how John approaches the relationship of Peter and Mary Jane and how they'll deal with their mutual decision to retire Spider-Man. How will it affect them personally if their decision ends up costing the other "Spider-Man" his life? We all know that Peter has a strong sense of responsibility regarding his alter ego. I see a lot of story line potential so far.

If the first issue is any sign of how the new AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is going to be, then I'll be around for another 20 years at least!

A. Jaye Williams
London, ONTARIO
N5W 1Z7 CANADA

Well, thanks, A. Jaye (any relation to Ray Jay Johnson?)! Sounds like you're definitely in for the long haul. Count yourself among the growing thousands who have had all their misconceptions dispelled by the powerhouse ASM #1!

Dear Spider's Web,

I have to admit, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1 really surprised me. Not by any secret plot elements anything, but by the overall quality of Howard Mackie's script and John Byrne's artwork. I had thought that

Mackie's previous Spidey work on PETER PARKER, SPIDER-MAN was okay, but not as good that I got excited by the announcement that he would be writing both of the continuity titles. Obviously, his work has been held back by having to share the spotlight with the other writers! Aside from some cheesy dialogue (i.e., recaps for new readers), Howard did a great job. The issue had a great, lighthearted feel, thrown in with exciting fight scenes, a classic Spidey formula. The science job and its new cast members were also a good idea, as was Mary Jane's less prominent role. I hope she travels out of town often because it seems that the more she is showcased, the less of an individual personality Peter seems to have.

John Byrne's work also deserves praise. He draws a great Peter Parker. Peter looks young and lighthearted, which is very refreshing. John's work also looked good, as did everybody else at the Daily Bugle. And it's so great to see Aunt May again!

My only real gripes are pretty insignificant next to all this good stuff. First, the Scorpion's new costume seems a bit gaudy, and since I'm a firm believer that the original Steve Ditko designs are eternal, I could have lived without this particular revamp. Also, between the main story and the back-up story, it looks like some villain knows Spidey's secret identity and is sending people after Peter. Ugh! I've seen this done enough to last me the next 36 years! It would be nice to see Spidey fighting some super-powered bank robbers for a change. Finally, I didn't think that Scott Hanna's inks did much for Byrne's pencils. His line work is just a little too scratchy, and over Byrne's obviously loose penciling, it makes the art look a bit sketchy.

Still, considering that I haven't enjoyed the Spidey books on a regular basis in four or five years, you've accomplished quite a feat in persuading Spidey's biggest fan to write a complimentary letter. Keep up the good work and get Peter back in the costume!

Brad Walker
102 East Liberty Street #610
Savannah, GA 31401

Consider it done. Glad to see how much you enjoyed #1, Brad. It certainly seems as if Howard and John's reworking of Spidey is right up your alley. Sorry you don't seem to have taken to Scott's inks over John's pencils. No offense, but you seem to be in the vast minority there. Most people are simply gushing over the esteemed Mr. Hanna's lines. Oh, well—to each his own!

Dear Spider's Web,

I am still speechless over the fantastic work that Howard Mackie, John Byrne and Scott Hanna have been able to do on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1. This issue has exceeded all of the expectations I

had for you guys. After reading the "Final Chapter" storyline, I thought there was no way anybody could top it. But as always, the Spider-Man creators have proved me wrong. From the beginning, it warmed my heart to see many of the other super heroes' respect for Spider-Man. After being dumped on by the general public for so long, it's nice that he is receiving a tenth of the recognition he deserves. Another positive is the revival of J. Jonah Jameson's hatred for Spidey. Even though Spider-Man has disappeared for months at this point, JJJ would stop at nothing to see the destruction of the wall-crawler.

The new costume for the Scorpion is purely awesome, largely due to the art of John Byrne. His depiction of Spidey's villains is incredible, as shown in the SPIDER-MAN: CHAPTER ONE limited series. John's pencils were just spectacular in ASM #1, and even better than his usual work. As for the new Spider-Man that popped up, my guess is that it's Speedball, largely because of his bouncing ability. Whomever it may be, I can't wait for you guys to bring back Peter Parker as the true Spider-Man, although it was nice to see Peter finally use his scientific smarts to take down the Scorpion. I would also like to thank you guys for the two bonus stories. With Howard Mackie writing both of the Spider-Man books, and Byrne as the regular artist on ASM, hopefully Spider-Man will once again be Marvel's flagship character.

Simon Yu
Fathom@aol.com

Thanks, Simon. That's certainly the plan. And you even forgot to mention that the other monthly Spidey title in continuity is being drawn by the redoubtable John Romita, Jr. The Spider-Man penciling stable is starting to look as formidable as the Atlanta Braves pitching staff, no?

NEXT ISSUE:

The Sandman has been walking the path of the angels for some time now, but when his old partner the Trapster comes a'callin', will Flint Marko revert to his less-than-ethical ways? Plus, John Byrne once again draws the modern day Fantastic Four! It'll be here in four short weeks, and you owe it all to Mackie, Byrne and Hanna. Ralf, on the other hand, you owe nothing to.



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